

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS In our 32nd year of service to small school bands in Texas

2117 Morse Street Houston, Texas 77019 713-874-1151 atssb@att.net

ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXII, Number 3 December 1, 2022



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President's Column

by Matt Knight



Wow, where did the Fall go? It seem like we just got home from TBA and started marching band. I hope everyone enjoyed a great run this marching season. It had been lots of fun watching everyone posts about their bands and keeping up with results.

We are truly blessed to have so many great small school bands in Texas. Congratulations to all the bands that advanced to Area Contest, the ones that

advanced to Area Finals and to the UIL State Marching Contest. What a ride!!

Congratulations to all the Small School Bands that performed at the UIL State Marching contest and the UIL State Military Band Marching Contest. A special shout out to our Military State Champion bands Carlisle HS and Lindale HS as well as out UIL State Open Class Marching Champions Shiner HS and Celina HS. Congratulations on a job well done!

As we finish marching season and move inside, I always hear voice of Dr. Charles Traylor and Harold Bufe in my ear "The best way to build bands and make kids better musicians is to participate in All Region Auditions and UIL Solo & Ensemble". We each have had people that have helped us along the way and we are better because we

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(President's Column, continued from Page 1):

have listened to their advice. I encourage you to get your students involved in the all region process. I feel this is so important for middle school and high school students. Also, jump into Solo & Ensemble with both feet. It makes your band so much better. If you have students that are not ready for solos, try ensembles. Remember with ensemble parts they are learning to play together. Not sure where to find the right literature for your students, ask your neighbor down the road (or in West Texas the next county). I know I speak for every directors that is reading this, we would love to help another school anyway we can.

ATSSB is a truly a service organization for the small school bands in the state of Texas. There is lots of ways to serve ATSSB on the local, region and the state level. Contact your local region coordinator and ask how you can help. There are always folders to stuff and percussion to move. Most of the time you just need to ask.

Have you ever thought about serving as a band organizer or a percussion organizer for the All State Bands. We are always looking for people who are interested in taking these projects on. If you would like more information about one of these opportunities, please email me at mknight@abernathyisd.com.

I want to recognize our outstanding ATSSB Executive Board. Gina Muela, Christina Smith, Brian Tillman, Brian Sours, Bonnie Anderson, Marc Nichelson, Eric Gray and Rodney Bennett. They are each selfless people who always want to put kids first. We are truly blessed to have each one of them as members of ATSSB. Thanks as always to Kenneth Griffin for the day to day operations of our organization. We could not make it without him.

On a personal note, Anna Jo and I had a very dear friend (41 years young) that had a heart attack on November 18. The following 72 hours were very scary to say the least. I am happy to report that as I write this on November 29th, he is headed home to his family with a great outlook for a full recovery. I share this to ask you this? When is the last time you told one of your students how special they are? When have you thanked that band parent for all he/she does for your kids? When have you caught your custodian or your maintenance staff and told them thanks. Most importantly thanks your family for all they do for you while you are taking care of your "other family" Don't forget to let people know how special they are. You never know when you might not have a chance to again.

If I can ever be of any help to you please do not hesitate to ask. On behalf of Anna Jo, Keelan and I please let me be one of the first to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mutt Lnight

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles of interest to small school band directors will be published. Letters to the Editor from members will be published if signed, although writers may remain anonymous by request. Send all inquiries to ATSSB, 2117 Morse Street, Houston, Texas 77019; fax them to 713-874-1151, or email them to the Executive Secretary at atssb@att.net with appropriate attachments. Advertising is accepted for the Newsletter. See the Advertising Policy on our website:

https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf

President-Elect Column

by Rodney Bennett

We have made through another marching season and I hope it was a successful one for you and your bands. Congratulations to all the bands who advanced the UIL Area Contests and then qualified to the UIL 2A & 4A State Marching Band Championships in San Antonio November 8 & 9. The performances were outstanding and inspiring to see and hear! A special shout-out to the 2A UIL State Marching Band Champions – Shiner High School – Zachary Sims, director and the 4A State Marching Band Champions – Celina High School – Jonathan Weddle, director. Bravo - well done!!



Thanksgiving break has come and gone and Christmas break is fast approaching. I hope each of you had a good pause in your routine and spent time with family, getting some needed rest to recharge

for the final days of the fall semester. Do your best to stay healthy and energetic for your students. There are some of you who still have upcoming marching band performances with your football teams in the playoffs. Enjoy the ride and continue to make great memories with your kids. I can feel for you and know the challenges of preparing for region band auditions, Christmas concerts, and marching band all at the same time. After a 17-year stretch of playing at least 14 games each football season from 1984-2000, I feel your pain.

I hope we all realize how fortunate we are, that we have the opportunity to teach band at our respective schools and have positive impact in the student's lives. In checking with colleagues, this year has been an exceptionally challenging fall. There have been significant issues and concerns with student behavior, classroom decorum and an overall lack of commitment. Sometimes these situations get in the way of making music. We press on to create meaningful musical experiences in our daily rehearsals with an emphasis on outstanding performances for our students and audiences.

ATSSB continues to serve the small school bands of Texas under the leadership of Matt Knight, Kenneth Griffin and members of the Executive Board. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve and learn from each of these colleagues. It is my hope that ATSSB continues to meet your needs as small school band directors of Texas. I look forward to serving the association, directors, and students of the small schools of Texas. If I can ever be of assistance to you or your students, don't hesitate to ask.

Please be sure to check out your region website for all the information regarding your region auditions. Also refer to the ATSSB website for audition music errata.



Immediate Past-President's Column

by Eric Gray

Time to reflect...as we celebrate the holidays and traditions often accompanied with said holidays, our thoughts go back to memories made through the years and the special people and times we have shared together. We have a large Christmas tree we put up in the band hall every year and I invite the seniors to donate an ornament to the tree with their name on it so through the years as we put up that tree, we can remember them and the great experiences we had together. I must admit it is one of my favorite things to do each year and am glad to announce that as of this morning the tree is up and brightly lit! Each ornament is a special reflection of the students that passed through the program over the years, and it truly is a labor of love.



Speaking of reflection...I have come to the realization that this will be my last article as a member of the ATSSB Executive Board. What an incredible journey this has been and I would like to thank all those involved that trusted me with this leadership position. I truly count the members of this board my friends and as we meet in the years to come, the common bond of service to this great organization and the members and students of ATSSB will continue to keep us close. Thanks to all the members of ATSSB but especially to Kenneth Griffin for his continued and relentless service to this ATSSB. I have learned a great deal from this man and am honored to call him my mentor and friend.

Competitive marching season is over and congratulations to those bands that participated at any level, playoff games still occupy our Friday nights, all region is in full swing and solos with ensembles are being prepared. You know as well as I do it never really stops but please take some time to enjoy the fall season with those you love. Time passes so quickly, and I believe we should always take every opportunity to share our lives and experiences with the people around us. The TMEA convention is rapidly approaching and let me encourage you to make your preparations to be a part of this incredible experience. TMEA does an outstanding job each year putting together a world-class convention for all participants of music education throughout our state. This is a great opportunity to learn from the best educators, hear outstanding ensembles and make new connections with friends and colleagues. In addition, we will have elections for new officers for ATSSB in our General Session meeting so please plan to attend and vote for the candidates of your choice.

Let me encourage you to stay informed of legislation and educational trends and how these will affect our programs in the days ahead. We must never forget that we are the advocates for our programs and the small school bands across the state. Don't hesitate to speak up and get involved! Sometimes we have the belief that "someone else will do it" or "I don't really have time to get involved". If you are currently teaching, it is absolutely your time to get involved and make a difference!

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you. Merry Christmas!!!

Executive Secretary's Column by Kenneth L. Griffin



I hope the region audition process went well for all of you and that your students who advanced to Area are preparing for an even better audition for Area January 7. Make sure you have paid the \$25 Area fee (most regions collect that and send one check).

The clinician for the ATSSB All-State Symphonic Band is Dr. David Allen Waybright from the University of Florida. ATSSB has commissioned Carol Brittin Chambers to write a piece to be premiered by this ensemble. The ATSSB All-State Concert Band clinician will be Dr. BJ Brooks from West Texas A&M University. We also look forward to Steve Owen from the University of Oregon working with the ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble. ATSSB has commissioned Mr. Owen to write a piece for the 2023 ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble.

There are no forms needed for Area. Students selected to State will receive an email regarding housing, the Medical Release (needing signatures and a Notary Public) and a Code of Conduct (needing signatures) that they must bring to registration on Wednesday of

the clinic February 8, 2023. For students making ATSSB All-State (including the 20 ATSSB Jazz Ensemble students) need to make housing plans for the clinic. See the 2023 ATSSB All-State Housing Quick Guide in this Newsletter which needs to by followed immediately after Area January 7.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gina Muela for her service to ATSSB the last two years as Class 1C Representative to the ATSSB State Board of Directors and to Brian Tillman for his service to ATSSB as Class 1A Representative and to Bonnie Anderson for her service to ATSSB the last two years as Class 3A Representative. Rodney Bennett is finishing up his two-year term as President-Elect and will take over as President after the 2023 All-State concerts. Eric Gray is finishing up his 6-year term of leadership (two as President-Elect, two as President and two as Immediate Past-President). He now "retires" to the rank of Past-President with an Honorary Life Membership in ATSSB and a permanent seat on the State Board of Directors. A State office is a time-consuming but necessary role to keep or Association strong and current for our small schools. These outgoing officers also contributed as members of the Executive Committee as it met to accommodate the needs of students and their directors in the interim between State Board of Director meetings.

Please make an effort not only to thank our Licensees for their support, but also to use their services. These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. They pay a portion of their receipts to the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund. Please consider using them before any other companies offering the same or similar products. See the list elsewhere in this Newsletter. Also, be sure to ask anyone selling items at ATSSB activities (region concerts, etc.) if they are official ATSSB Licensees. This brings up a point regarding recorded examples of ATSSB audition music. The only officially approved recordings are those by Licensees. We realize some college and university faculty members make recordings, but you need to be careful they do not use their own editions or interpretations utilizing individual editorial changes that might confuse the student when auditioning. Check to be sure the recordings are provided by official ATSSB Licensees before purchasing them. Not only will you be maintaining consistent recording and performing standards, you will also be supporting our Scholarship Fund since Licensees pay a royalty on all sales to the Fund. Southwest Emblem in Cisco has been authorized to make and sell Outstanding Performance Series Finalist and Winner patches (see add in this newsletter). They are the only ones with permission to make and sell patches with ATSSB logos and service marks. All other patches are provided by regions and ATSSB (and Fruhauf Uniforms which provides the shoulder patches for ATSSB All-State).

A reminder about piccolo and Eb clarinet: If your flute player makes the All-State Band at the Area auditions January 8 and would like to play piccolo, have them bring their piccolo to San Antonio. After regular chair auditions are completed for flute, we will hold separate auditions for piccolo in each band from among those students interested in it that were selected for their respective bands. If your clarinet player makes the All-State Band at the Area auditions January 7 and would like to play Eb clarinet, have them bring their Eb clarinet to San Antonio. After regular chair auditions are completed for clarinet, we will hold separate auditions for Eb clarinet in each band from among those students interested in it that were selected

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(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from Page 5):

for clarinet in their respective bands. A notice concerning this policy will be placed in the flute and clarinet links they will receive at Area this year if they are selected for the All-State Band. Piccolos and soprano clarinet players will audition on the actual piccolo or soprano clarinet parts and chair placement in their respective bands will have nothing to do with who is selected to play piccolo or Eb clarinet.

We plan to hold our ATSSB Business Session Friday, February 10, 2023, in CC214 of the convention center at 2:30. Elections for Class 1C, Class 1A and Class 3A Representatives to the State Board of Directors along with President-Elect will be held at that time. A short biographical sketch and picture of each candidate for state office who has submitted documentation can be found in this Newsletter. If any are missing, check back because biographies and/or pictures will be added if and when the candidates have submitted the information to this office. An electronic ballot will be held in January to reduce the nominees to the top two vote recipients in each office for the ballot at the General Session (unless one person receives 51% of the votes cast in the electronic ballot).

When you get a chance, be sure to thank our Region and Area Coordinators for their efforts in securing audition panels, planning and executing region clinics and concerts, meetings, etc. Be sure to visit with your Region Coordinators about issues you wish addressed at the State Board meeting coming up. Make your opinions about issues confronting ATSSB known to your representatives to the State Board so they can be discussed with a consensus from the membership.

Thanks to all of you for your continued diligence and hard work on behalf of the students in our small school programs during these stressful and unprecedented times. Keep up the great work.

OPS State Chair Column by Collin Anderson



As you wind down the fall semester and prepare for Christmas concerts and parades while missing your basketball players at tournaments and other students at various events, I do hope that you will plan to take time to slow down and rest during the holiday season as much as possible and be refreshed for the spring semester.

With February not too far away, I want to remind all of our 2022 Outstanding Performance Series winners (1st place and runner-up march and 1st/2nd place and runner-up concert selections) that awards will be presented during the ATSSB general session at the TMEA annual convention. I hope that each of you that earned an award will be able to attend and receive your winner's plaque during the presentation. Do remember that anyone who may have changed schools during the summer will still receive the award you earned within your previous position.

I would like to offer my thanks to all of the judges at each level of this year's competition, especially for giving your time during the hectic-ness of the end of school, while you are on your off time during the summer, or taking time away from your TBA convention. Having great judges at the region, area, and state levels ensures that the

most outstanding performances advance and then rise to the top at state. And, of course, thanks to all of the fine bands and directors who make the Outstanding Performance Series such a great success by accepting the challenge to strive to create such amazing, musical performances.

The OPS Steering Committee plans to continue the 1A OPS competition category for the upcoming 2023 season, with hopes that even more 1A schools will participate. The Steering Committee has also discussed a proposal for better serving non-varsity groups, but no definitive plans are made for the spring at this time.

Wishing you all the best in your Christmas, solo/ensemble, and spring UIL season preparations! Look for an email in the near future regarding the OPS process for the 2023 competition.

State Jazz Coordinator Column

by Brian Donnell (bdonnell@atssb.org)

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the jazz band audition process, and to their directors who guided them along the way. We have a very strong band seated for the 2023 All-State Jazz Band! Their clinician is Mr. Steve Owen, a Philip H. Knight Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Oregon. The band will perform on Saturday, February 11 at 1PM in Hemisphere Ballroom 1. Make a point to add the concert to your TMEA convention schedule!

When you attend the concert, the band may look familiar because there are 6 students who have made the band before. Two of those are 3-year members - Nash Blais, trumpet, from Legacy Christian and Martin Davenport, trombone, from China Springs. What an accomplishment for those 6 musicians!



The students and directors should have received specific information about the all-state weekend. If you did not, email Kenneth Griffin or me and we'll get it to you. Directors with students in the all-state jazz band will soon receive an email from the band's organizer asking for help with chaperoning, sectionals and more.

Did your region jazz clinic/concert have a wonderful clinician, who programmed great music, related well to the students, and understands small-school students? If so, I would love to have that person's information to pass along to regions that ask about potential clinicians. Just shoot me an email with the specifics.

Numbers

For those curious about the numbers involved in the 2022-2023 Area auditions:

- 21 of 22 regions sent student recordings to Area auditions
- 341 students total were entered for Area
- 396 is the maximum number of students possible (22 regions X 18 from each region)
- Jazz guitar had the fewest number of entries at 14
- number of entries from each Area South (86), Central (83), North (72), East (62), West (38)

For those curious about the composition of the 2022-2023 All-State Jazz Band:

- 20 players in the jazz band 5 saxes, 5 trumpets, 5 trombones, 5 rhythm section
- 2 regions have 4 students in the band Regions 8 and 24
- 2 schools have multiple students in the band China Spring and Kerr
- Comal ISD has 2 students in the band one each from Canyon Lake HS and Davenport HS
- 8 different regions are represented
- 4A schools have 15 members, 3A schools have 4, and there's 1 student from a 2A school
- Areas represented North (7), Central (6), East (4), South (3), West (0)

All the best to you and your students as you head into the holiday season. I continue to be honored to serve ATSSB and welcome any comments and suggestions.

Webmaster's Column

by Marc Nichelson

As we begin the mad dash towards the Winter holidays, I know you are working diligently to give your students a fantastic experience through our audition process, local performances, and those excellent daily interactions in the band hall. That experience you (and through you the activity of band in general) offer is ultimately what students will remember. My 97-year-old grandmother was fortunate to go through the band program of a very young (now hall of fame Band director) Paul Stroud. She may not remember the tunes she played or the awards they won, but she still speaks so fondly of her experiences those 80 years ago. So often, in seeking "success," we measure it with a trophy or a rating, but it comes down to those experiences with the



students and our impact on their lives. So continue to push for excellence, show students those incredible life lessons, but always remember the experiences that made us love band in the first place!

Website Projects Currently in the works:

- 1. As always please let us know if something on the site is not functioning the way it is intended or a resource you'd like to see on the website.
- 2. I'd also like to know if some of you would be willing to help submit materials, we can publish to our social media that would help small school band directors. These could be teaching resources, videos you've made giving a clinic on certain items, etc... This would be specific to Small Schools and something our audience would find beneficial to use in their programs. If interested, please contact me at mnichelson@atssb.org.
- 3. If you know of any business that would be interested in beginning an advertising relationship with us, please have them contact me at mnichelson@atssb.org.
- 4. I am also looking at digital media (both in terms of video clinics, podcasts, and even zoom hangouts) to continue adding opportunities for directors not only use our contests but have more wonderful resources given through our website. If you know of anything we can add PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Best wishes.

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TFAA Update

by Christina Smith, Class 2C/3C Representative to the ATSSB State Board of Directors

Greetings! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and found time for family and yourself. I have been appointed by ATSSB President Matt Knight to serve as the liaison between The Texas Fine Arts Administrators (known as TFAA, formerly TMAC) and ATSSB.

While many small schools do not have the title of Fine Arts Director, in many ways you serve as your district's Fine Art Director without the title. You might consider joining this association as it could provide additional resources of knowledge and experience.

Their mission and purpose statements are provided below:

Our Mission

TFAA equips leaders to advance high quality fine arts education for all.

Purpose

- Advocating tirelessly for the advancement of fine arts education, community engagement, and increased access to arts education.
- <u>Collaborating</u> as Fine Arts Administrators to provide support, guidance, and professional learning opportunities.
- Consciously <u>supporting</u> all students, educators, and programs in ways that develop lasting relationships with all stakeholders.
- <u>Developing</u> partnerships that allow for lasting collaborative relationships between arts
 organizations, school districts, and other stakeholders.
- Holding students and their potential for achievement at the center of all decision-making, instructional support, and planned training.



Updates from the Texas Fine Arts Administrators:

- The name of the organization has changed from Texas Music Administrators Conference (TMAC) to Texas Fine Arts Administrators (TFAA).
- Members of TFAA are working on a project to assist with the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA), including building assessments to measure students' growth.
- 3. JD Janda, Tomball ISD Director of Fine Arts was named the Outstanding Administrator of the Year.
- 4. Kim Blann, Fine Arts Director at Keller ISD was nominated to the TFAA board.
- 5. The TFAA Business Luncheon will start at noon Wednesday, February 8th. Anyone interested should join TFAA ahead of time at https://www.texasmusicadmin.com/ so that you can be included in the count for lunch.
- 6. The following TFAA (formerly TMAC) sponsored clinics will be presented at TMEA:

Teaching in Challenging Environments

Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:00-11:00 am CCC LDR

TMAC Mock Interview Session #1

Thursday, February 9, 2023 11:30 am - 12:30 pm CCC LDR

Women In Leadership: Growing the Next Generation

Thursday-February 9, 2023 1:00-2:00 pm CCC LDR

TMAC Mock Interview Session #2

Friday, February 10, 2023 11:30 am-12:30 pm CCC LDR

Success From the Bird's Eye View: What a FA Director Sees

Friday, February 10, 2023 1:00-2:00 pm CCC LDR

If you have questions about joining TFAA or how it could serve you, please feel free to reach out to me (Christina.Smith@centerisd.org) or Paulette Tomlinson (ptomlinson@flourbluffschools.net).

ELECTION

Class 1C, Class 1A and Class 3A Representatives to the State Board of Directors and President-Elect will be elected by secret ballet during the ATSSB General Session February 10, 2023, in CC214 at 2:30. Nominees who submitted a biography and/or picture by the time of publication follow below. Only current Retired and Active Members actively involved in 1C middle schools (including the high directors involved) may vote on 1C Representative. Only current Retired and Active Members actively involved in Class 1A high schools may vote on 1A Representative. Only current Retired and Active Members actively involved in Class 3A high schools may vote on 3A Representative. Any current Retired and Active Member may vote on President-elect.

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Class 1C Representative



Jenny Bartley is the band director at Grand Saline Middle School in Region 3 and in her 29th year as a music educator. She has served in this position since 2013. She held positions in Oklahoma and Arkansas prior to coming to Texas

in 1999. Although she has taught in larger schools, she prefers teaching in small schools. In her current position, Mrs. Bartley conducts the middle school band, teaches beginners, and assists with the Grand Saline High School Band. She also teaches clarinet master classes and frequently serves as a woodwind judge. The Grand Saline Middle School Band is a consistent sweepstakes band and is frequently represented at the state level of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series. In Region 3, Mrs. Bartley is a member of the woodwind committee and coordinates a middle school region band.

Mrs. Bartley is a 1989 graduate of Amarillo High School and a 1993 graduate of the University of Arkansas. She resides in Canton with her husband Mike. Their oldest son, Daniel, is a junior music education major at the University of Arkansas who was a three year member of the ATSSB All State Band

on euphonium and jazz trombone. Their youngest son, Matthew, is a senior at Canton High School who plays percussion and also plans to pursue a degree in music education. Both sons are active in DCI, performing with the Blue Stars in 2022.

Mrs. Bartley is a member of ATSSB. TMEA and TBA. "I strongly believe in the mission of ATSSB. After many years of teaching, I would like to be more involved in the promotion of music education in small schools and the strengthening of our programs."



Marilyn Bennett is the band director at Olney Middle School in Region 7. She is married to Rodney Bennett and they have one son, Ronnie Whitfield, who with his wife Ashley has given the Bennnett's

three grandchildren: Emma, Jude and Ezra. She received her M.M.E. and M.M.E. from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. She taught in Dalhart half a year in 1978, Holliday ISD 1978-1980, Mundy ISD 1990-2005, Palacios ISD 2005-2008, and Olney 2008-present.

She is a member of Phi Beta Mu

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(Nominees, continued from Page 10):

International (Alpha Chapter), ATSSB, TBA, TMEA, NBA, ASBDA, Tau Beta Sigma (Life Member), WBDI, Delta Kappa Gamma, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Tri-M Music Honor Society (Faculty Life Member).

She has served ATSSB on the State Board of Directors, was Class 1C Representative to the State Board 2015-2019, Region 2 Secretary 1993-2005, Region 13 Secretary 2005-2008, Region 7 Secretary 2019-present, TMEA Region 2 Secretary 1993-20005, and 2021-2016, TMEA Region 11 Secretary 1991-2005 and 2012-2016, Band Division Secretary 1991-2005, 2012-2016 and 2019-present, Region 13 Secretary/Treasurer 2005-2008, and Region 7 Secretary 2016-present.

She has served the Women's Band Directors International as Texas State Representative 2014-present, served on the International Board 2014-present, Secretary 2014-2016, President 2016-2018, and Past- President 2018-2020. She is listed in Who's Who in Mu Phi Epsilon, Outstanding Young Women of America, Notable Women of Texas, Outstanding Woman of the Year 1992 – American Biographical Institute, Elite American Educators, Who's Who among America's Teachers (1998, 2002, 2004, 2005), TMEA Honor Band Director (1994, 2000), NBA Citation of Excellence (2000). Women Band Directors International Silver Baton Award (2017), Palacios ISD Bell Award (2007, 2013), Co-Citizen of the Year, Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture (1993), Co-Grand Marshal 2022 Munday Homecoming Parade.

"It is an honor to be nominated for Class C Representative to the ATSSB State Board. It is my belief that the various leadership experiences and skills gained over the years will provide a positive and productive interaction with others."

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Sara Beth **Brewer** is the band director at West Texas Middle School in Stinnett. She is married to Will Brewer and they have both worked together in and our of school for 24 years. They have two children: Marcus, a

freshman bass clarinet at West Texas High School, and William, a first year art teacher at Pampa Junior High School.

She attended Wiggins High School in Wiggins, Colorado, and received her Bachelor of Music from Wayland Baptist University in 1999.

She taught band and general music at Canadian 2000-2012, general music at Borger 2012-2016, and middle school band and high school assistant at West Texas 2016-present. She has taught at SWOSU MS Band Camp from 2013-present.

She is a member of ATSSB and TMEA and has served ATSSB as All-Region Percussion Assistant and assisted Will Brewer and Kevin Kuehler in their office as Region Coordinator. She has her local Kodáy Level III Certification and was named the Velma Zelma Teacher of the Year in 2016 in Borger.

"I love working 'behind the scenes' helping others to achieve their goals. This is true for my students, my family and my coworkers (who also happens to be family). I have watched my students perform as TMEA Honor Band, State Marching Finalists, in All-State Bands and Band Camp Honor Groups. I have accompanied soloists and Region and State Solo Contests. Most importantly, as a small school director I have watched

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(Nominees, continued from Page 11):

many students grow into successful adults and wonderful parents. God has given me a desire and ability to help others be the best they can be. I believe this ability will enable me to fight the fights that need to be fought and work to solve the problems that need to be solved to serve not only my fellow 1C directors, but all of ATSSB."

Stephanie Haffner is the band director at West Rusk Junior High School in New London, Region 21.

She is married to her husband of 23



years, Grady Haffner, West Rusk High School Band Director. They have three children: Caleb - a college freshman, Noah - a high school junior, and Hannah - a high school freshman. All three have been a part of their band

program.

She received an Associate of Art in Music degree from Tyler Junior College and a Bachelor of Music degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. She taught elementary music and band in Arp from 1999-2008 and has taught at West Rusk from 2008-present. She is a member of ATSSB and TMEA.

Her bands have made first divisions in concert and sight reading multiple times. Her band advance to the OPS State Finals seven times, winning 2nd place concert in 2013 and 1st place march and 2nd place concert in

 $\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond\diamond$

2021.

"I grew up attending a small school and being part of band was such an important part of my life. It s a privilege to teach in a smallschool band program and to introduce my students to the joy of being part of the band family."

Class 1A Representative



Mark Frank is the band director at Covington High School in Region 8. He is married to his wife of 22 years, Mickey and they have two sons and their families who live in New Jersey. He got his Associate of Arts degree ar McLennan

Community College in 2010 and his Bachelor of Music degree (cum laude) from Tarleton State University in 2013, where he received the TSU Center Stage Award and the Most Improved Jazz Musician in 2012 then the TSU Center Stage Award and Outstanding Jazz Musician in 2013.

"I am honored to have been nominated for this position and would be proud to represent Class 1A bands on the ATSSB State Board of Directors."

(Continued on Page 13)

(Nominees, continued from Page 12):



Jesus Perez is the band director at Cross Plains High School in Region 7. He is in his 19th year of teaching and holds a B.M.Ed. from Southwestern Assemblies of God University and a M.M.Ed. from Tarleton State University. His career

has been exclusively in service to small schools, having taught in Axtell ISD, Italy ISD, Midlothian Heritage HS, and Cross Plains ISD.

Throughout his ten year tenure at Italy ISD, his bands consistently earned sweepstakes awards, and achieved state recognition for their 3rd place in the State Honor Band contest in 2014, and as a State OPS runner up in 2015. During his three year span as assistant director and percussion instructor at Midlothian Heritage, he helped establish a brand new band program and had multiple students earn the coveted Outstanding Performer Award at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest. Since beginning his tenure at Cross Plains in 2019, his bands have been consecutive sweepstakes award winners, earned a first ever trip to the State Marching Contest Finals in 2021, and placed 2nd at the state OPS contest in 2022. The Cross Plains 7th grade band also earned the school's first ever middle school sweepstakes at UIL in the spring of 2022. He is a member of TMEA. ATSSB, TBA, TMAA, and actively serves as an adjudicator and clinician around the state.

Mr. Perez was honored with the Mirabeau B. Lamar Excellence in Education

award for his contributions to Italy ISD in 2010 and was selected as the Teacher of the Year at Cross Plains in the spring of 2020.

Mr. Perez resides in Eastland, TX with his wife Jodi, daughter Gabriella, and son Caleb. He is an active member of his church's worship ministry. Mr. Perez spends his spare time fishing, skeet shooting, tending to the family's cattle, and managing his fantasy football teams.

"It would be a tremendous honor and a privilege to serve my fellow 1A directors as the 1A representative. Whether I am elected or not I will continue to serve and advocate for the needs of our 1A bands."



Brian Tillman is the band director at Irion County High School in Region 6. He is married to Darla, an elementary science teacher in Irion County and they have two children: Wes is a sophomore engineering major at Angelo State where

he plays the trombone in the Golden Ram Band, and Audrey who is a senior Drum Major in the Irion County Hornet Band.

He received his Bachelor of Music (summa cum laude) from Angelo State University in 1994.

He taught at Grape Creek High School from 2002 to 2010, Edison Junior High in San Angelo, Van Alstyne Middle School 1994-1998. He is an active member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and TMAA (active Concert Band).

He is the current Class 1A Representative to the ATSSB State Board of Directors.

(Continued on Page 14)

(Nominees, continued from Page 13):

His bands were 1st Place at the UIL State Marching Contest in Class 1A in 2019, 3rd place in 2021 and 3rd place in Class 2A in 2017. They were TMEA Honor Band Finalists in 2017 and 2021, and ATSSB Outstanding Performance Concert Winner in 1A in 2021.

He was named Teacher of the Year at Edison Junior High in 2001, Grape Creek High School in 2004, and Irion County High School in 2018 and 2020.

"It has been a privilege to serve the students and directors of our Texas band programs as your 1A representative for the past two years and it would be an honor to continue to serve in this capacity. I feel that I offer the experience and knowledge to address the particular challenges and needs of those of us that teach in the very smallest of Texas Small School Bands and I wish to offer my help and support wherever needed."

Class 3A Representative



Bonnie Anderson is the band director at Littlefield High School in Region 16. She is a graduate of Big Spring High School and earned her BMEd from Abilene **Christian University** and her MMEd from Angelo State University.

She is beginning her 44th year of teaching. Miss Anderson began her teaching career in Seagraves Texas in 1978 as an assistant to Bill Woods. She was the high school choir director and assisted Mr. Woods with the junior high band. Her 2nd year she began directing the junior high band.

Miss Anderson's second job was

assistant band director and assistant choir director at Big Spring High School for 3 years. She then taught the next 8 years teaching grades 5-12 in Hamlin. Her fourth and final job is Littlefield ISD as Director of Bands from 1992 to the present.

Bonnie is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, Phi Beta Mu, and TMAA.

When she began teaching, she taught high school choir in Seagraves, taking the choir to UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest. Her choirs earned 1st divisions in concert each of the 3 years she taught in Seagraves. Miss Anderson's Hamlin bands earned numerous Sweepstakes awards under her tenure. As the director of bands for Littlefield ISD, under her tutorship, the high school band has earn many UIL Sweepstakes Awards, 17 of the past 18 years were consecutive Sweepstakes Awards. The Littlefield High School Marchin' Cats earned 4 consecutive trips to the UIL State Marching Band Contest in San Antonio 2009-2015.

The Littlefield High School Band earned several trips to state for TMEA Honor Band Competition and was lucky enough to compete in the OPS state competition in 2014. 2016 and 2018.

She was named the 1992-93 Outstanding Educator by the Hamlin Chamber of Commerce, Woman of the Year by the Littlefield Chamber of Commerce in 2005, and received the UIL Sponsor of Excellence Award in 2018.

"I have loved teaching these past 42 years. I love my kids and want them to love music. I believe it doesn't matter where you come from, if you want to achieve a goal, set your eyes on it, and let's work on it together. It is my job to teach my kids how to be respectful to each other. I believe they learn by watching adults, me and the other directors. If I give and treat them with respect, they will do the same. I believe in the spirit of competition, not just to win but to learn how to

(Continued on Page 15)

(Nominees, continued from Page 14):

lose. My band kids are the best kids in school, they know that I will fight for them if they need me. I had an amazing band director, Bill Bradley. I could never be like him, but I sure try to be.

If chosen as your 3A representative, I will work diligently to keep you informed and try to make decisions as if you were by my side. Thank you for taking the time to read my biography and thank you for supporting my effort."

Rustin Honeycutt is the band director at Troy High School in Region 8. He is married to Joy and they have three children: Kara, Laurin and David.

He received his Bachelors from the University of North Texas in 1999 with a



major in Music Education and his master from UNT in 2006 with a major in Music Education.

He taught at Irma Marsh Middle School in River Oaks 1999-2000, Pilot Point Middle School 2000-2005.

Whitesboro Middle School 2005-2008, Mabank ISD 2009-2010 and Has taught at Troy from 2010-present.

He is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honors Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity, TMEA, TMAA and ATSSB.

His Pilot Point Middle School Band was an OPS State Finalist in 2004 and the Troy High School Band was an OPS Finalist in 2014, 2017 and 2021. Troy HS was in the UIL State Marching Band COntest in

2013, 2017, 2019, and 2021. They were TMEA State Honor Band Finalist in 2017 and 2019. His bands have had consistent UIL Superior ratings from 2010-2022. His Whitesboro Middle School Honors Band and the Whitesboro High School Symphonic Band received Superior UIL ratings for the first time in school history. His Pilot Point Middle School Band participated in UIL for the first time under his baton and earned Superior Ratings.

"My students have benefited greatly from ATSSB over my career. Preparation for tryouts has helped them develop in better players. Members in my band that have achieved placement at the region and state level have been exposed to great conductors and their musical world was expanded. My program has also had additional opportunities to push themselves when preparing for OPS recordings.

It would be an honor to serve as the 3A representative on the state level. I am very aware of both the challenges of developing programs and have had the pleasure of working with more advanced programs. If elected into this position, I would strive to balance the needs of programs on both ends of this spectrum."



Whitney Katz is the band director at Gunter
High School in Region 24. Mrs. Katz is native to Plainview, TX where she was under the direction of Barry Hurt, a Founding Charter Member of ATSSB.

(Continued on Page 16)

(Nominees, continued from Page 15):

She received her B.M.Ed. from Texas Tech University in Lubbock and began her teaching career near San Antonio at Floresville Middle School in Region 12. In 2012, she began teaching at Coppell Middle School West. This awarded her the opportunity to work with and learn from Scott Mason, who spent the first portion of his career in small schools, most notably the award-winning Crane High School Band. There she learned how the values of teaching in small schools can be translated to large band programs. After time to be a stayat-home mom, she taught at Lakeside Middle School in Little Elm. She also has experience organizing & hosting events including All-Region Auditions, Clinic & Concerts, and Solo & Ensemble.

In 2019, Mrs. Katz made the decision to leave the large school setting and become the Director of Bands for Gunter High School to further promote the importance of music education in small schools. She is in her 4th year at Gunter High School. In her first three years, the Gunter Band staff has increased middle school enrollment by 67%, increased number of All-Region participants, and has a state placement every year in both categories of OPS. The high school enrollment has increased by 65%, increased All-Region, Area, & All-State placement, OPS state placement, and earned their highest placements at Area B Marching Contest in the school's history (4th, 5th, & 6th place respectively).

Mrs. Katz is married to fellow band director Ben Katz who teaches at Clark Middle School in Frisco. They reside in Little Elm with their son William. Mrs. Katz is an active member of ATSSB, TBA, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and TMEA.

"I was born and raised in small communities. Having taught in both large and small schools, I believe the variety of my experiences and organizational skills would be an asset for ATSSB. It is my hope that I can help our organization remain strong and further improve its purpose as a leading entity in small school music education. It would be an honor to serve as the Class 3A voice in continuing the proud tradition that is ATSSB."



Dane Richardson is the band director at Holliday High School in Region 7. He is married to Lynn and they have two children: 6-year-old Aubrey and 1-yearold Charlie.

He received his Bachelor of Music from Angelo State University in 2005 and his

Master of Music Education from Texas State University in San Marcos in 2008. He taught at Menard 2005-2008, Breckenridge from 2008-2020 and Holliday from 2020-present.

He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA and TMAA. He was Breckenridge High School Teacher of the year in 2011, Breckenridge Masonic Lodge Teacher Award recipient in 2017, and Breckenridge American Reader's Choice Teacher of the Year in 2020.

"I believe in servant leadership and intend to use that to advance the interests and causes of small school bands."

Derek Vasquez is the band director at Tulia High School in Region 1. He is married to Sydney Renee Vasquez and they have three children: Braxton, Indee and Malakiah.

He graduated from Stratford High School and West Texas A&M University and taught at Stratford 2016-2017, at Tulia as Assistant Director 2017-2018, then as Tulia Head Director 2018-present.

(Continued on Page 17)

(Nominees, continued from Page 16):

He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA and TMAA.

"I humbly ask for your vote for class 3A representative on the ATSSB State board.



I grew up and graduated from Stratford TX. I benefited greatly from being involved in multiple extracurriculars as a student. I was that kid that would finish football practice and run to the band hall for band practice.

I participated in athletics, UIL Academics, Theater, Student Council, and Band. That could not have been possible without ATSSB. I would love to give back to the organization that gave so much to me. I am passionate about small school bands and will do my best to serve at the highest level."

President-Elect

Brandon Garmon is a band director at Gilmer High School in Region 4. He is married to his wife of 20 years, Kim, and they have two children: Carter is 15 and Caroline is 6.

He is a graduate of Gilmer High School and Texas Tech University and has taught at Gilmer Junior High School 2001-2013, Head Band Director at Union Grove High School 2013-2021, and at Gilmer High School 2021-present. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TMAA, and Phi Beta Mu.

He served ATSSB as Region 4 SOuth Zone Middle School Coordinator 2005-2009, Region 4 Treasurer 2009-2013, ATSSB State Board and Executive Board as Class 1C/2C Representative 2007-2013 and Class 2A Representative in 2019. He is the current TBA Representative for Region 4 and serves on the UIL Sight-Reading Committee.

Honors and awards include Consistent First Division and UIL Sweepstakes Award Winning Bands at Gilmer JH and Union Grove



HS, OPS Winner at Gilmer JH
– 2006, Union
Grove High
School – 2015,
2018, 2019, and
2021. UIL 2A
State Marching
Contest 2017,
2018- 4th Place
Open Class,
2020 - Bronze
Medalist Military
Class. 2021
UIL 4A State

Military Marching Contest – Bronze Medalist. Member of the East Texas Yamboree Board of Directors since 2011. President of the East Texas Yamboree – 2017.

"I am truly grateful for the nomination to the office of President-Elect of ATSSB. As a student at Gilmer High School, I was a member of the ATSSB All-State band in 1994 and 1996. I grew up in an ATSSB school and have spent my entire 22-year career teaching in ATSSB schools as well. Needless to say, ATSSB holds a very special place in my life. I have been fortunate to spend much of my career working with my friend and mentor, Eric Gray, who served as President of ATSSB from 2019-2021. Working alongside him has given me some valuable insight and perspective into the current direction of our association. I am eager to serve ATSSB as President-Elect if chosen by our membership, and I look forward to continuing the success our association has seen for over 30 years."

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(Nominees, continued from Page 17):



Angie Liss is the band director at Howe High School where she has worked 29 years, with 19 of those serving as head director. A graduate of Howe High School where she was a band member (flute) under the direction of Elmer Schenk. she attended

Baylor University on a piano scholarship for two years before transferring to Texas Woman's University where she graduated with honors with a degree in Music Therapy. After working for 6 years as a music therapist in the Arlington and Allen Independent School Districts she was hired by Mr. Schenk as an assistant. During those years prior to being hired by Howe, she was also very active as an accompanist for several DFW metroplex band and choir programs. She continues to serve as an accompanist, not only for her church, but for many area band and choir programs. When needed, Mrs. Liss also performs with groups such as the Plano and McKinney Community Bands on piano and has subbed in for various jazz bands in the metroplex area.

Howe Bands will celebrate 50 years next year and during those years they have been highly successful including 38 sweepstakes awards. Howe bands have competed at the state marching contest 23 times and are tied for 2nd on the leaderboard for most appearances at the UIL State Championships out of all bands regardless of classification. Mrs. Liss was part of 15 of those 23 either as a student, assistant

director when Howe won the 2000 TMEA Honor Band. Under her direction, the Howe HS band has been an Honor Band Finalist multiple times as well as numerous finalists in the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series and a first-place finish in the march category in 2009 with their performance of "Big Cage".

Aside from her work in the band world, Mrs. Liss has served on multiple district level committees, coached softball & track as well as UIL academic events, taught elementary music, choir, sociology, psychology, and many "other duties as assigned." Last winter she was awarded the prestigious UIL Sponsor Excellence Award for her dedication to her students and UIL programs. She is also regularly active in her community most recently helping to organize the city-wide Howe Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Mrs. Liss served for 3 terms on the ATSSB Executive Board where she was the 3A State Representative. What she is most proud of during her time on the executive board is the board's navigation of all things Covid that culminated in the 2021 All-State Clinic & Concert held June 9-12 at the Melissa Performing Arts Center.

Angie & her husband, Andreas, live in Howe where they spend their extra time working around the farm and at their church. They have four grown children and their spouses and four precious grandchildren that also consume as much of their extra time as possible.

Liss states, "After serving as the 3A Representative for 6 years, my desire to serve as your President-Elect is to continue to be involved in the ever-changing complexion of the small school band. The small school setting brings challenges far different from those of larger schools and we are all facing issues with the rest of society in how to grow our students into responsible adults while trying to keep them safe, help them feel heard, all the while teaching them respect, director, or head director and was an assistant integrity and resilience. My experience on

(Continued on Page 19)

(Nominees, continued from Page 16):

the executive board and as Region 24/25 coordinator as well as my 29 years as a Howe director provides a solid foundation for future decisions as we continually strive to be an organization that commands the utmost respect across the state, regardless of the size of our schools. My heart truly has a passion for students, and I will always work to do all that I can to help foster their opportunities in music and support you as you work for your students as well. I am always accessible and ready to listen and do what I can to help you and your students. Thank you for your consideration on this year's ballot."



Jon Schriver is in his 11th year of music education and third year as Director of Bands at Cameron ISD in Region 8. Under his direction, the Cameron ISD Bands have continued to receive UIL Sweepstakes

Awards, placed 8th in Class 3A at the 2021 UIL State Marching Contest, and for the first time in the district's history, both the high school and junior high bands were named 2022 ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series State Finalists.

Prior to teaching in Cameron, Mr. Schriver was the Director of Bands in Valley Mills ISD. Under his direction, the Valley Mills High School Band received seven consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Awards, was named a TMEA Honor Band State Finalist, and ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series State Finalist. In 2017 the Eagle Band placed 2nd

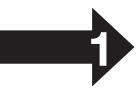
in the UIL State Marching Contest and in 2018, was named UIL State Marching Band Champion for Class 2A.

Mr. Schriver received his degree in Music Education from Texas A&M-University Commerce and his Master's in Educational Administration from Lamar University. Mr. Schriver is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and TMAA. At the 2022 Texas Bandmasters Convention, Mr. Schriver was named Phi Beta Mu's Young Bandmaster of the Year. Originally from DFW, Mr. Schriver now resides in Waco, Texas, with his wife Courtney. Away from the band hall, Mr. Schriver enjoys spending time with family and friends, and participating in competitive BBQ cook-offs.

"It is an honor to be nominated for President-Elect of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. The challenges of teaching in a small school are unique and often overlooked by those that have never been at our level. If elected, I plan to advocate for the small school director and work with TMEA, UIL, and TMAA as new policies are created to protect and ensure the advancement of our association."



Online Entry: January 9–10, 2023



Log In

January 9–10: Go to www.tmea.org/AShousing. Log in to the housing system using your TMEA record (your email and password).



Enter Billing Information

Enter credit card data to secure the reservation. (*This can be changed at check-in*). Click **Save.**



Verify Your Students

Click **My Student List** from the Navigation Links and verify that each of your All-State students is listed and their submitted gender is accurate.

If incorrect, contact Andrew Denman-Tidline, adenman@tmea.org, 512-452-0710, x109.



Create Rooms

Click My Room List from the Navigation Links

Select gender for the room occupants and click **GO.**

Your student list will display. Select students for the room **and** enter the chaperon's TMEA Member ID or 0 for a non-member.

Click Create Room.

To find more students, click the drop-down to display students from your campus, district, region or Area. Click **GO.** To select someone who is not your student, **contact the director listed** to gain agreement.



Create Your Chaperon Room (DON'T SKIP!)

Go to the **Create a Room** section. Select Chaperon. Click **GO.** Enter your TMEA Member ID. You can enter other TMEA IDs or non-member names for this room. Click **Create Room**.

One chaperon room per division per school is allocated. TMEA will place at least one chaperon from a school district in the same hotel housing students from that district.

Note: If another director entered your students, and you aren't sharing the chaperon room they submit, **create your own chaperon room!** A room will not be assigned for you.



reservation!

Print Your Room List

Go to **My Room List** and use your browser Print to print this page for your records. You will be notified by Jan. 17 of room assignments. **Log Out of My TMEA.**

Don't Lose \$50!

When you submit your chaperon room via All-State Housing, a room will be reserved for you. If you previously made a reservation through the TMEA housing system, you **must cancel it by January 17** or you **will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee!**

Room Planning — Complete before January 9!

- 1. Work with other directors *before January 9* to plan rooms, each with four students.
- 2. Decide who will enter these rooms on January 9–10, and take this page home to complete that entry.
- 3. Log in January 9 to enter students into rooms and provide billing information.

The housing system will allow you to select students assigned to you, or, from your campus, your district, Region, or Area. To select students other than yours, obtain agreement from their directors (their contact information will be listed with their students in the housing system). **The system does not automatically create chaperon rooms. Ensure you have one!**

Hotel	Assign	ments
	Assign	

TMEA will create reservations for the students and chaperons submitted in the **Hyatt Regency Hotel**.

The maximum base rate (not including taxes) in this hotel is \$179 per room per night. When you receive room reservation confirmations from TMEA, they will specify this hotel, its room rate, and the total amount that will be due.

Student	School/ISD	Chapero	Chaperon ID	
Student	School/ISD	Chapero	Chaperon ID	
Student	School/ISD	Chapero	on ID	
If you are sharing a cl	embers for a Group Chaper naperon room with other directors, decide who mber ID of each director sharing the chaperon	will enter the chaperon room	and note the directors' Member IDs h	

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